

by the Omaha Police Department, as well as by the Omaha City Prosecutor, and the Douglas County Attorney's Office. It was in response to the child pornography ring that was recently busted or cracked in Douglas as well as Lancaster County. It was a real problem in getting some prosecutions as it...it is in the process of the prosecution right now, and in the course of the trial, just as recently as a couple of days ago, the Douglas or the Omaha Police or Omaha City Prosecutor had to drop one of the charges against an individual because of the age requirement wasn't up to the age of 18, and so they saw this as a real problem. I think a lot of the credit dealing with this Child Pornography Prevention Act has to go to Senator Higgins. She was the one that carried the bill last year and this bill strictly dovetails with the bill that Senator Higgins enacted last year, and she put in a lot of hard work on the bill last year, and no one is denying that she was a front-runner in dealing with this child pornography issue. This bill itself is a bill that strictly maybe reclarifies the parameters in child pornography, in the prevention of child pornography in the State of Nebraska. As the bill stands at the present time, a child pornography is considered under the...a person can be convicted of child pornography if he in anyway molests a child and the child is under the age of 18 years of age. In addition, the second part of the bill deals with the penalty provisions so that if a person shall...an individual or a child molester, let's assume a child molester unlawfully has in his possession with the intent to rent, sell, deliver, distribute, trade, or provide to any other person a visual depiction of sexually explicit contact which has a child as one of its participants or portrayed observers. So the bill increases the penalty. At the present time, a person is convicted if he commits any of these crimes, selling or renting photographs of a child engaged in some sort of act or just a child itself, that individual can only be convicted of a Class I misdemeanor. It was the concern of the Omaha Police Department as well as the Omaha Prosecutor, Omaha City Prosecutor's Office, and the Douglas County Attorney's Office that that person should be convicted of a felony. We had some instances where an individual had been involved in child pornography or child molesting for 35 to 45 years but he had never been convicted. Well, that individual has molested hundreds to thousands of children in the State of Nebraska and he will only be able to get charged with a misdemeanor. We feel he should have a felony conviction on his record and hopefully